



FACT SHEET

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Intellectual Property Rights

Theft of intellectual property and trade in fake goods threatens America's economic vitality and national security, as well as the health and safety of Americans. Trade in illicit goods often helps fund criminal activities and organized crime. Enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR) is a U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP) priority trade issue. CBP uses a multi-layered, strategic approach to deterring counterfeit and other illicit goods.

In fiscal year 2020, CBP seized 26,503 counterfeits with an estimated manufacturer's suggested retail value of \$1.3 billion, had the goods been genuine. Approximately 80 percent of these goods originated in or were transshipped through China or Hong Kong.

CBP enforcement also includes collaborating with foreign governments and multi-lateral organizations and working closely with industry and partner government agencies. CBP issues civil fines to IPR violators and refers IPR cases to other law enforcement agencies for criminal investigation.

CBP works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) and 25 additional partners at the IPR Center to ensure that IPR border seizures representing criminal activities lead to investigations, arrests, and convictions.

CBP works with rights holders to record their trademarks and copyrights with CBP, which enables us to enforce protected marks at ports of entry.

CBP's e-Allegations electronic portal provides a way for the public to report suspected IPR and other trade violations.

To educate the public on the dangers of counterfeit goods, CBP hosts "The Truth Behind Counterfeits" public awareness campaign. For more information about this effort visit: www.cbp.gov/FakeGoodsRealDangers.



IPR Resources:

For assistance regarding IPR enforcement contact the IPR Help Desk at: iprhelpdesk@cbp.dhs.gov

To request information on CBP's recordation program, please contact the IPR Branch at: iprquestions@cbp.dhs.gov

If you have any suspicion of or information regarding suspected fraud, please contact CBP through the e-Allegations website: <https://eallegations.cbp.gov/Home/Index2>

To learn about the CBP IPR response to COVID-19 visit: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/coronavirus>

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